



Letter to the Industry

Essential Services COVID-19 - 2020-04-06

To: All Individuals participating in the Construction Industry,

Friday April 3rd, 2020 the Province of Ontario revised the Essential Services list to stop the Spread of COVID-19 and as part of that revision “Construction” has been limited to specific allowances.

As of 11:59 pm April 4th, 2020 construction sites across Ontario shall be limited to the following parameters:

1. Construction projects and services associated with the healthcare sector, including new facilities, expansions, renovations and conversion of spaces that could be repurposed for health care space.
2. Construction projects and services required to ensure safe and reliable operations of, or to provide new capacity in, critical provincial infrastructure, including transit, transportation, energy and justice sectors beyond the day-to-day maintenance.
3. Critical industrial construction activities required for,
 - the maintenance and operations of petrochemical plants and refineries,
 - significant industrial petrochemical projects where preliminary work has already commenced,
 - industrial construction and modifications to existing industrial structures limited solely to work necessary for the production, maintenance, and/or enhancement of Personal Protective Equipment, medical devices (such as ventilators), and other identified products directly related to combatting the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. Residential construction projects where,
 - a footing permit has been granted for single family, semi-detached and townhomes
 - an above grade structural permit has been granted for condominiums, mixed use and other buildings, or

- the project involves renovations to residential properties and construction work was started before April 4, 2020.
5. Construction and maintenance activities necessary to temporarily close construction sites that have paused or are not active and to ensure ongoing public safety.

Effective April 5th, 2020 The Town of Huntsville and the Township of Lake of Bays Building Departments will not be issuing any building permits unless they fall within the above noted categories. Under the provincial mandate, construction cannot be started unless the project falls within the essential list above. Building inspections may not be conducted on sites the province deems as non-essential.

Any inspections that do continue to meet the Province's essential list will continue to be conducted, subject to COVID-19 safe work practices.

Please note that the above noted conditions do not exempt an individual from rectifying an unsafe condition (including septic systems, or structural failure) during this time. Should a municipality place an order on a property, it is the responsibility of the property owner to remedy the situation within the timelines and requirements of the municipality. It will be at the municipality's discretion to determine if a permit is available for the work to be carried out during this time.

We know there are many projects in the final stages of design and are ready for submission for application, we will continue to accept applications for review.

Building Services staff are not responsible for confirming what workplaces are essential and communicating only what inspections we are able to complete. Essential Workplaces information is available by calling the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at [1-888-444-3659](tel:1-888-444-3659) or visit the website <https://www.ontario.ca/page/list-essential-workplaces>.

As with everything, these directions are subject to changed based on further direction from the Province of Ontario/Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and/or the OBOA.

Should you have any questions please contact us for more information.

Chris Nagy, CBO
Town of Huntsville
Christopher.Nagy@huntsville.ca
705-789-1751 ext 2228

Stephen Watson, CBO
Township of Lake of Bays
swatson@lakeofbays.on.ca
705-635-2272 ext 225